

# NEW JERSEY MILITIA NEWSLETTER

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*All persons are by nature free and independent, and have certain natural and unalienable rights, among which are those of enjoying and defending life and liberty, of acquiring, possessing, and protecting property, and of pursuing and obtaining safety and happiness.*

-- Article 1, Section 1, New Jersey State Constitution

## How the War on Terror Militarized the Police

By Arthur Rizer and Joseph Hartman

At around 9:00 a.m. on May 5, 2011, officers with the Pima County, Arizona, Sheriff's Department's Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team surrounded the home of José Guarena, a former US Marine and veteran of two tours of duty in Iraq, to serve a search warrant for narcotics. When his wife screamed that she had seen a man outside pointing a gun at her, Guarena grabbed his AR-15 rifle and went to investigate.

Within moments, and without Guarena firing a shot, he lay dying, his body riddled with 60 bullets. A subsequent investigation revealed that the initial shot came from a SWAT team gun. Guarena had no criminal record, and no narcotics were found at his home.

Why has it become routine for police departments to deploy black-garbed, body-armored SWAT teams for routine domestic police work? The answer requires a closer examination of the post-9/11 War on Terror.

In an effort to deal with terrorism on US soil, police forces have purchased military equipment, adopted military training, and sought to inculcate a "soldier's mentality" among their ranks. Though the reasons for this increasing militarization seem obvious, the dangerous side effects are somewhat less apparent.

American police departments have adopted everything from body armor to attack helicopters. But some experts in the legal community have raised serious concerns that allowing civilian law enforcement to use military technology runs the risk of blurring the distinction between soldiers and peace officers.

Police departments have employed military weaponry not only to combat terrorism but also for everyday patrolling. Police officers routinely walk the beat armed with assault rifles and garbed in black full-battle uniforms.

Today, virtually every police department in the nation has one or more SWAT teams, the members of whom are often trained by special operations commandos. Furthermore, with the safety of their officers in mind, departments now habitually deploy their SWAT teams for minor operations such as serving warrants. In short, "special" has quietly become "routine."

The most serious consequence of the militarization of American police forces, however, is the subtle evolution in the mentality of the "men in blue" from "peace officer" to soldier. The primary mission of a police officer traditionally has been to "keep the peace." Those whom an officer suspects to have committed a crime are treated as just that - *suspects*. Police officers are expected to protect the civil liberties of all citizens, even the "bad guys." For domestic law enforcement, a suspect in custody remains innocent until proven guilty.

Soldiers, by contrast, are trained to identify people as belonging to one of two groups - the enemy and the non-enemy. Once this identification is made, a soldier's mission is stark and simple: kill the enemy, "try" not to kill the non-enemy. Indeed, the Soldier's Creed declares, "I stand ready to deploy, engage, and destroy the enemies of the United States of America in close combat." This is a far cry from the peace officer's creed "to protect and serve."

Americans should remain mindful that bringing military-style training to domestic law enforcement

has real consequences. When police officers are dressed like soldiers, armed like soldiers, and trained like soldiers, it's not surprising that they are beginning to *act* like soldiers. And remember: a soldier's main objective is to kill the enemy

-- The Atlantic, 9 Nov 11

Ed.: The Atlantic is a day late and a dollar short. We scooped them by at least 15 years.

## Overkill: The Rise of Paramilitary Police Raids in America

By Radley Balko

Cato Policy Paper Executive Summary

Americans have long maintained that a man's home is his castle and that he has the right to defend it from unlawful intruders. Unfortunately, that right may be disappearing. Over the last 25 years, America has seen a disturbing militarization of its civilian law enforcement, along with a dramatic and unsettling rise in the use of paramilitary police units (most commonly called Special Weapons and Tactics, or SWAT) for routine police work. The most common use of SWAT teams today is to serve narcotics warrants, usually with forced, unannounced entry into the home.

These raids, 40,000 per year by one estimate, are needlessly subjecting nonviolent drug offenders, bystanders, and wrongly targeted civilians to the terror of having their homes invaded, usually by teams of heavily armed paramilitary units dressed not as police officers but as soldiers. These raids bring unnecessary violence and provocation to nonviolent drug offenders, many of whom were guilty of only

misdemeanors. The raids terrorize innocents when police mistakenly target the wrong residence. And they have resulted in dozens of needless deaths and injuries, not only of drug offenders, but also of police officers, children, bystanders, and innocent suspects.

This paper presents a history and overview of the issue of paramilitary drug raids, provides an extensive catalogue of abuses and mistaken raids, and offers recommendations for reform.

### **Botched paramilitary raids: An epidemic of "Isolated Incidents"**

A New Jersey incident:

Five state police officers in masks, bulletproof vests, and donning assault weapons break into the home of Philip Petronella as he's watching television. Though the front door is unlocked, they break it down anyway. They handcuff Petronella, and sit him on the couch while they rifle through his belongings.

The search goes on for hours. Police finally reveal to Petronella, a 63-year-old retiree, that they believe his home is being used for prostitution. "I told them, 'You gotta be kidding. I ain't getting any. Nobody else is getting any out of here,'" Petronella told a local newspaper.

Police later realize that the suspects they were looking for had moved out months earlier.

Source: Arielle Levin Becker, "State police search targets wrong tenant," *Home News Tribune*, May 11, 2005.  
-- www.cato.org July 17, 2006

### **Bill of Rights Day is December 15**

Quite often we at JPFO are contacted by someone who really wants to "do something to help". We welcome these queries. Thank you.

However, JPFO has so much "intellectual ammunition" available in the fight against "gun control" that our answer often is: "Just use our tools!"

Bill of Rights Day is December 15th. Each of you can make at least one other person aware of the day, and of how essential the Bill of Rights has been to American freedom. How controversial can it be to give a neighbor a "Gran'pa Jack #3" comic book about the Bill of Rights? Will you be labeled a kook ... or a "gun nut". Most likely not.

Most people simply do not understand that the Second Amendment is the "Guardian" of the Bill

of Rights. The way to reach these folk is to:

1. Remind them of what our Bill of Rights actually says ... and is meant to do. Visit the **JPFO BoR index page**, and find many related items.
2. Gently point out that we are rapidly losing our foundational rights.
3. Calmly and somberly remind them that, G-d forbid, the day may come when we have to physically stand up to a tyrannical government in America. Hence the Second Amendment.

This third point is not new with the "Patriot" or "Militia" movement. We were being warned of it from the very founding of this nation!

So please support JPFO and support your own freedom now. Get your **Bill of Rights Day kit**, and a **Bill of Rights poster**. Or buy a hundred **"Gran'pa Jack #3"** comic books.

Please remind America of what America is supposed to be: "The shining city on the hill".

Yours in Freedom,

The Liberty Crew at JPFO

- <http://shop.jpfo.org/cart.php> - films, books and more. (Call 800-869-1884 - office hours CST)

### **The controversial "sound cannon" weapon**

Forget tear gas and mace. The cops' LRAD sound cannon is really making some noise.

Riot police have begun deploying a non-lethal weapon called a long range acoustic device — LRAD, for short — against Occupy Movement protesters across the country. A controversial military device, which blasts targets with powerful sound waves capable of causing "extreme pain", the LRAD can sometimes even lead to permanent hearing loss. A tamer version of the device has been spotted during the recent evictions at New York's Zuccotti Park and Occupy Oakland's encampment. Here's what you should know:

LRAD systems are used by airports "to sonically deter birds from residing in the paths of aircrafts," says Roberto Baldwin at Gizmodo. But in military situations, the LRAD is aimed like a beam to debilitate anyone within its 300-meter range with high-pitched frequencies.

What happens when the cannon is aimed at a human?

You might get a headache, feel extreme pain, or even lose your hearing. Think of it this way — a conversation in a restaurant is roughly

60 decibels. A dishwasher is 80. A live rock concert is 110. And "human discomfort" starts when a noise hits 120 decibels — imagine a chainsaw. Permanent damage starts at 130 decibels, and at 140 decibels, targets "could potentially lose their balance and be unable to move out of the path of the audio," says Baldwin. While a military-grade LRAD 2000X can go north of 160 decibels, Baldwin says police generally use a less potent version of the device, the LRAD 500X, which has the ability to blast out 110 decibels.

-- *The Week* – Fri, Nov 18, 2011

### **Vatican calls for U.N central bank**

The Vatican called on Monday for the establishment of a "global public authority" and a "central world bank" to rule over financial institutions that have become outdated and often ineffective in dealing fairly with crises.

The 18-page document, "Towards Reforming the International Financial and Monetary Systems in the Context of a Global Public Authority," prepared by the Vatican's Justice and Peace department, called, for example, for taxation measures on financial transactions.

It condemned what it called "the idolatry of the market" as well as a "neo-liberal thinking" that it said looked exclusively at technical solutions to economic problems.

It called for the establishment of "a supranational authority" with worldwide scope and "universal jurisdiction" to guide economic policies and decisions.

Such an authority should start with the United Nations as its reference point but later become independent and be endowed with the power to see to it that developed countries were not allowed to wield "excessive power over the weaker countries."

It said the International Monetary Fund (IMF) no longer had the power or ability to stabilize world finance by regulating overall money supply and it was no longer able to watch "over the amount of credit risk taken on by the system." The world needed a "minimum shared body of rules to manage the global financial market" and "some form of global monetary management."

"Of course," the document acknowledged, "this transformation will be made at the cost of a gradual,

*In the beginning of change the patriot is a scarce man, brave, hated and scorned. When his cause succeeds, however, the timid join him, for then it costs nothing to be a patriot.* – Mark Twain

balanced transfer of a part of each nation's powers to a world authority and to regional authorities, but this is necessary at a time when the dynamism of human society and the economy and the progress of technology are transcending borders, which are in fact already very eroded in a globalized world."

-- Reuters 24 Oct 2011

## **U.S. Rep to U.N. Says Obama Wants Senate to Ratify Arms Treaty**

BELLEVUE, Wash., Oct. 19, 2011 -- The Obama administration "is seeking advice and consent" for Senate ratification of an international small arms treaty, and also supports the inclusion of small arms in the UN Register of Conventional Arms, the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms learned today.

The disclosure is found in the text of a statement to the First Committee of the 66th session of the UN General Assembly, delivered by Laura E. Kennedy, the permanent United States representative to the Conference on Disarmament.

In her statement, Kennedy recalls that the United States in 1997, under the Clinton administration, signed the Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials. However, the Senate never ratified the document. American firearms rights activists have steadfastly fought against inclusion of small arms in any such treaty.

"It's not clear why Barack Obama is - according to Kennedy's revealing statement - suddenly seeking Senate ratification of this measure," noted CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb.

"This suggests that Obama fears he may be a one-term president," Gottlieb stated, "and he feels a compelling need to finally bring his anti-gun agenda to the surface. We have known all along about his desire to bind this country to an international gun control scheme, and now Kennedy's statement confirms that."

With more than 650,000 members and supporters nationwide, the CCRKBA ([www.ccrkba.org](http://www.ccrkba.org)) is one of the nation's premier gun rights organizations dedicated to preserving firearms freedoms through active lobbying of elected officials and facilitating grass-roots organization of gun rights activists in local communities throughout the United States.

-- SOURCE Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms

## **Annie, don't get your gun**

by Shane Wade, Opinion Editor

A couple of weeks ago, the Richmond *Times-Dispatch* reported about the pro-gun Virginia Citizens Defense League's planned demonstrations at state universities to protest efforts to ban the concealed carrying of guns in campus buildings.

To be blunt, I find it hard to trust some students to dress themselves or bandage their own paper cuts, let alone wield a firearm.

The conflict boils down to one issue: safety. Pro-gun groups want students to be able to defend themselves, and universities don't want to pollute campuses with an air of potential violence by allowing students to carry firearms.

Here's my solution: throwing knives. As the late newspaper columnist Molly Ivins said, "... I am not antigun. I'm proknife." Call me crazy, but a solid arm and a knife to the arm or shoulder can be just as efficient in bringing someone down. Lift the ban on throwing knives, swords and all bladed weaponry and then we can consider lifting the ban on firearms. Call it an experiment, a testing period, whatever; let students wield knives, which also have practical uses, before we allow them to carry, let alone conceal, guns.

-- [www.commonwealthtimes.org](http://www.commonwealthtimes.org)  
2011/10/24/

Commentary :Bring a knife to a gun fight? Good luck with that.

## **Evacuation Day November 25**

Following the American Revolution, Evacuation Day on November 25 marks the day in 1783 when the last vestige of British authority in the United States — its troops in New York — departed from Manhattan. The last shot of the American Revolutionary War was reported to be fired on this day, as a British gunner on one of the departing ships fired a cannon at jeering crowds gathered on the shore of Staten Island (the shot fell well short).

The city suffered two devastating fires of uncertain origin during the British occupation. These resulted in the British forces and prominent Loyalists occupying the remaining undamaged structures, relegating the fire-scarred ruins for the rest of the city's residents to live in squalor. In addition, over 10,000 Patriot soldiers and sailors died through deliberate neglect on prison ships in

New York waters (Wallabout Bay) during the British occupation — more Patriots died on these ships than died in every single battle of the war, combined. These men are memorialized, and many of their remains are interred, at the Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument in Fort Greene Park, Brooklyn, overlooking the site of their torment and deaths.

Even after Evacuation Day, British troops still remained in frontier forts in areas which had clearly been defined by the Treaty of Paris (1783) to be part of the United States. Britain would continue to hold a presence in the old Northwest until 1815, at the end of the War of 1812.

For over a century Evacuation Day was commemorated annually with boys competing to tear down a British Flag from a greased pole in Battery Park. But the wider national observance of the date began to wane after Abraham Lincoln, in his October 3, 1863, Thanksgiving Day Proclamation, called on Americans "in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next as a day of thanksgiving." That Thursday fell on November 26. So dates on or near the 25th became Thanksgiving from then on.

Though little celebrated in the previous century, Evacuation Day was commemorated on 25 November 2008 with searchlight displays in New Jersey and New York. The searchlights are modern commemorations of the bonfires that served as a beacon signal system at many of these same locations during the revolution. The seven New Jersey Revolutionary War sites: Beacon Hill in Summit, South Mountain Reservation in South Orange, Fort Mifflin in Morristown, Washington Rock in Green Brook, the Navesink Twin Lights, Princeton, and Ramapo Mountain State Forest near Oakland. Five New York locations contributed to the celebration: Bear Mountain State Park, Storm King State Park, Scenic Hudson's Spy Rock (Snake Hill) in New Windsor, Washington's Headquarters State Historic Site in Newburgh, Scenic Hudson's Mount Beacon.

-- Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

## **Judge: Law for thee, but not for prosecutors**

The report on prosecutorial misconduct in the case of the late U.S. senator Ted Stevens declares that

federal bureaucrats -- especially those at the U.S. Department of "Justice" (sic) -- are not required to obey the law *if they are not specifically told they have to obey the law*

According to the *New York Times*: "the 500-page report by the investigator, Henry F. Schuelke, recommends that none of the Justice Department officials involved in the case be prosecuted for criminal contempt of court because the judge who presided over the trial, Emmet G. Sullivan, of Federal District Court in Washington, did not issue an order specifically instructing prosecutors to obey the law by turning over any exculpatory evidence."

The report admitted the prosecution was "permeated by the systematic concealment of significant exculpatory evidence which would have independently corroborated his defense and his testimony, and seriously damaged the testimony and credibility of the government's key witness."

Prosecutors wanted a conviction and were willing to lie to get it.

Prosecutors are regularly briefed about Brady requirements of turning over all exculpatory evidence and sharing files. As law school graduates, they also had Brady instruction in classes on criminal law. To put it another way, they did NOT have to be instructed in the requirements of Brady; they already knew, but chose NOT to obey.

The courts have ruled that you and I are required to know by heart every jot and tittle of the law, for "Ignorance of the law is no excuse."

Prosecutors who knowingly lied and hid evidence, prosecutors who are regularly briefed and trained in the law, do not have to obey it, or at least do not have to worry about being charged with lawbreaking as long as a judge does not remind them of what they already know. This is the very definition of tyranny.

<http://williamlanderson.blogspot.com/2011/11/judges-and-prosecutors-law-for-thee-but.htm>

### **Do Jewish "Gun Control" Advocates Fuel Anti-Semitism?**

By Rabbi Dovid Bendory, Rabbinic Director, JPFO

Anti-Jewish rhetoric is increasingly apparent in America. It surfaced recently at some "Occupy" protest locations. Anti-Jewish vandals defaced a New York City neighborhood just a few days ago.

Remarkably, in the face of this Jews remain overwhelmingly supportive of so-called "gun control". While exact statistics are hard to come by, we can extrapolate from the 78% of Jews who voted for Obama in 2008 to conclude that the overwhelming majority support the Democrat agenda, including citizen disarmament, the so-called "gun control" schemes.

Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership has, for more than twenty years, placed "gun control" in quotes. This innocuous phrase is actually a form of deceptive semantic trickery. "Gun control" ALWAYS means gun registration, the means by which governments know which citizens are armed, and with what types of firearms.

In every major genocide of the last one hundred years (including the Holocaust), the victim group was first officially disarmed. Far too often, "gun control" has historically ended in gun confiscation ... followed by the hell of genocide.

The equation is simple: A government-gone-bad cannot disarm the citizenry if it does not know who owns the guns.

From strictly a Jewish point of view, the grotesquely misguided stance of self disarmament among Jews could someday become suicidal for the individual Jew, or G-d forbid, for American Jews as a whole. See: "No Guns For Jews" and "Gun Control: Gateway to Tyranny."

Aaron Zelman, the late founder of JPFO, would say: "Considering our history, of all the ethnic groups on Earth, Jews should be the most dedicated group advocating the right to keep and bear arms."

From a broader perspective, try to imagine how American Gentiles feel about overwhelming Jewish support for gun prohibition. Jews arguing for the disarmament of America's citizenry must baffle (and even anger) our well-meaning Gentile neighbors.

It is bad enough that so many Jews give up their own right to self-defense ... but to also force others to do the same, by promoting the disarmament of our law-abiding, patriotic American brethren who would stand and defend us? This is both illogical and self-destructive on the part of the Jews who cry out for an unarmed populace.

And yet, here come the liberal Jews, like Senators Dianne Feinstein, Charles Schumer and Barbara Boxer and New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg pushing the

most idiotic and dangerous "gun control" schemes one can imagine.

This is NOT GOOD. The "Jewishness" of "gun control" must be confronted and reversed with immediate urgency.

Pragmatically, Jews may someday need to not only take an armed stance ourselves, but do so supported by our armed non-Jewish brethren. Morally, the Torah teaches that self-defense, even with lethal force when warranted, is a G-d given right and obligation. This is not negotiable. Self defense, and the defense of the innocent, is a COMMAND of G-d Almighty. See, "No Guns For Jews".

And yet Jewish proponents of "gun control" have gained a disturbing prominence and momentum. Jewish billionaires Michael Bloomberg and George Soros spend unknown sums of money advancing not only domestic "gun control" schemes, but a global "gun control" blueprint as well.

Jews in favor of the right of self defense and the right to keep and bear arms (and our numbers are significant and thankfully growing) must speak out loudly and frequently against the Bloomborgs and the Soroses and the Feinsteins and the Schumers. We must match their millions and their political clout with the volume of our voices, with the lessons of history, and with common sense. We must make it clear that "gun control" is NOT KOSHER.

I ask all my Jewish brothers and sisters to join JPFO and utilize the immense depth of JPFO's pro-freedom resources to educate themselves regarding these issues. Then use JPFO's "intellectual ammunition" to emphatically confront your gun phobic Jewish friends, family members and neighbors about the severe dangers that come packaged with "gun control". Willfully embraced defenselessness is an affront to our lives, our freedom, and to our G-d. -- Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership, Nov. 21, 2011

### **Appeal from Sheriff Richard Mack**

What would you do if you had just one chance to save your family and country from complete destruction? What would you do if you knew there was a lawful and peaceful way to restore the Constitution and its Bill of Rights as the supreme law of the land?

As a former peace officer and county sheriff, I testify that there is a way to secure liberty, protect ourselves and our families, and once again live in peace and freedom.

The solution is right in your own county. The solution is state sovereignty and each county acting in accordance with the principles established in the 10th Amendment. It's you working with your sheriff and locally elected officials to stand against the out of control federal government and its agencies.

The answer is your sheriff. Ultimately, he is the one who will decide what is enforced in your county. He has the authority and is oath bound duty to interpose himself on your behalf to protect you from all enemies, both foreign and domestic. He is the people's protector.

But the county sheriffs cannot do this alone. They need training, education, and support. To this end, I have helped form the Constitutional Sheriffs and Peace Officer Association (CSPOA). And, one of our first projects is a convention of up to 200 county sheriffs, targeted to convene in January 2012 in Las Vegas, Nevada. We can free America now, one county at a time, with the leadership of one sheriff at a time.

In Las Vegas nearly 10% of America's sheriffs will walk away with the constitutional training and firsthand knowledge of fellow sheriffs' success stories in upholding their oaths of office. These constitutional sheriffs will establish a Declaration reaffirming their Oaths and enumerating the federal government violations that will no longer be tolerated.

This convention is a significant step in formalizing a nation of constitutional sheriffs. There is no abuse they will not be able to stop. When the sheriff enforces the Bill of Rights and upholds his oath of office, we can free America now. No more waiting for the next election, it is within your grasp to make this happen now.

Our founders pledged their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor to this holy cause. What are you willing to do to restore our republic? This major next step to Liberty does not require your fortunes, but merely that you do what you can. To ensure that each sheriff attends, we must raise \$200,000 to cover travel, accommodations, and training costs.

With your support, this could be one of the most important meetings since the Founders signed the Constitution. The county sheriffs are key to taking back our Republics!

Please make your donation today to:  
CSPOA  
112 Ridgewood Dr.  
Fredericksburg, TX 78624.

Sheriff Richard Mack (RET)  
[www.cspoa.org](http://www.cspoa.org)

### **NYPD Officers Angered by Corruption Probe**

An investigation into the police's habit of fixing tickets in the Bronx ended in the unsealing of indictments against 16 officers on Friday and a stunning display of vitriol by hundreds of off-duty officers, who converged on the courthouse to applaud their accused colleagues and denounce their prosecution.

The assembled police officers blocked cameras from filming their colleagues, in one instance grabbing lenses and shoving television camera operators backward.

The unsealed indictments contained more than 1,600 criminal counts, the bulk of them misdemeanors having to do with making tickets disappear as favors. But they also outlined more serious crimes, related both to ticket-fixing and drugs, grand larceny and unrelated corruption.

The case, troubling to many New Yorkers because of its implication that the police officers believed they deserved special treatment, is expected to have long tentacles. Scores of other officers accused of fixing tickets could face departmental charges. Moreover, the indictments may jeopardize thousands of cases in which implicated officers are witnesses and may be seen as untrustworthy by juries.

Federal agents earlier in the week arrested eight current and former officers on accusations that they had brought illegal firearms, slot machines and black-market cigarettes into New York City.

Prosecutors said the bulk of the vanished tickets were arranged by officials of the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association, the city's largest police union. All the officers charged with fixing tickets are either current or past union delegates or trustees.

Prosecutors found fixing tickets to be so extensive that they considered charging the union under the state racketeering law as a criminal enterprise, the tactic employed against organized crime families. But they apparently concluded that the evidence did not support that approach.

-- New York Times 29 Oct 2011

### **Gun permits: a road to confiscation & tyranny?**

The following were issued concealed weapons permits by the

Stafford County Circuit Court in August: [123 people identified by first and last name]

-- "Community News"  
<http://www2.staffordcountysun.com/lifestyles/2009/sep/17/>

### **ATF Priorities: Smuggle guns to drug cartels, arrest cigarette smugglers**

By C.J. Ciaramella

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms may have knowingly allowed thousands of guns to be trafficked across the U.S.-Mexican border in the botched Operation Fast and Furious, but don't worry! The agency is busy keeping Americans safe from the scourge of cigarette trafficking.

The ATF announced Wednesday that, in conjunction with Georgia law enforcement agencies, it had executed 50 arrest warrants involving the illegal possession, sale and distribution of contraband cigarettes.

"By working together as a cohesive unit, our law enforcement partners were able to identify and apprehend individuals participating in racketeering activity, which included defrauding the state and federal governments of revenue by evading cigarette and cigar excise taxes," said Georgia State Attorney General Sam Olens.

As the second word in its name implies, the ATF has jurisdiction over contraband and counterfeit tobacco products.

During fiscal year 2010, the ATF recommended 219 defendants for prosecution and seized approximately \$63.2 million in contraband tobacco and alcohol, according to its website.

Meanwhile, between 2009 and 2010, the ATF facilitated the sale of at least 2,000 guns, knowing most would be smuggled into Mexico. The object of the operation was to track the guns as part of a sting operation.

The guns have since been linked to 179 crime scenes in Mexico as of June.

One such gun was used to shoot at a Mexican military helicopter, forcing it to land. Two AK-47s were used by cartel members in the high-profile kidnapping of an attorney.

Two other guns allowed across the border were linked to the death of U.S. Border Patrol agent Brian Terry.

Only 600 of the 2,000 guns allowed to be walked over the border have been recovered by officials.

Luckily, the cartels were not getting their hands on something truly dangerous, like cartons of tax-free cigarettes.

-- <http://dailycaller.com/2011/10/19>

## Gun ownership at all-time high, crime at 35 year low

Coinciding with a surge in gun purchases that began shortly before the 2008 elections, violent crime decreased six percent between 2008 and 2009, including an eight percent decrease in murder and a nine percent decrease in robbery. Since 1991, when violent crime peaked, it has decreased 43 percent to a 35-year low. Murder has fallen 49 percent to a 45-year low. At the same time, the number of guns that Americans own has risen by about 90 million. Predictions by gun control supporters, that increasing the number of guns, particularly handguns and so-called "assault weapons," would cause crime to increase, have been proven profoundly lacking in clairvoyance.

**More Guns:** There are well over 250 million privately-owned firearms in the U.S., including nearly 100 million handguns and tens of millions of "assault weapons" — the types of firearms that gun control supporters have tried the hardest to get banned — and the number of firearms typically rises about 4 million per year. Annual numbers of new AR-15s, the most popular semi-automatic rifle that gun control supporters call an "assault weapon," are soaring. In 2008, there were more than 337,000 new AR-15s configured for home defense, competition, training, recreational target practice and hunting. NRA-supported Instant Check firearm transactions have increased over 10 percent annually since 2006.

**Less Gun Control:** Over the last quarter-century, many federal, state and local gun control laws have been eliminated or made less restrictive. The federal "assault weapon" ban, upon which gun control supporters claimed public safety hinged, expired in 2004 and the murder rate has since dropped 10 percent. The federal handgun waiting period, for years the centerpiece of gun control supporters'

agenda, expired in 1998, in favor of the NRA-supported national Instant Check, and the murder rate has since dropped 21 percent. Accordingly, some states have eliminated obsolete waiting periods and purchase permit requirements. There are now 40 Right-to-Carry states, an all-time high, up from 10 in 1987. All states have hunter protection laws, 48 have range protection laws, 48 prohibit local gun laws more restrictive than state law, 44 protect the right to arms in their constitutions, 33 have "castle doctrine" laws protecting the right to use guns in self-defense, and Congress and 33 states prohibit frivolous lawsuits against the firearm industry. Studies for Congress, the Congressional Research Service, the Library of Congress, the National Institutes of Justice, the National Academy of Sciences, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have found no evidence that gun control reduces crime. The FBI doesn't list gun control as one of the many factors that determine the type and level of crime from place to place.

-- NRA ILA, Sept. 21, 2010

## The State is the 1%

By Llewellyn H. Rockwell Jr.

The "occupy" protest movement claims that the 99 percent are exploited by the 1 percent, and there is truth in what they say. But they have the identities of the groups wrong. They imagine that the wealthiest 1 percent are the problem. In fact, *that* 1 percent includes some of the most innovative people — who invent, market, and distribute material blessings to the whole population.

But there is *another* 1 percent, that lives parasitically off the 99 percent.

I'm speaking of the state, the direct cause of all the wars, inflation, taxes, regimentation, social conflict, violence, censorship, unemployment, and poverty, too.

The US population is 307 million, including about 20 million government employees. Excluding public-school teachers, postal workers, and local and state employees we get to the real problem at the federal level

(8.5 million), from which we can subtract fluff, drones, and service workers.

So we end up with about 3 million people who constitute what is commonly called the state. For short, these people are the 1 percent. Everything they have they get by taking from the 99% under the cover of law.

There is very little if any honest talk about what the state is and what it does. But in the libertarian tradition, from Bastiat to Rothbard, the state is the only institution permitted by law to use aggressive force against person and property.

Let's take a simple example. Say you go to a restaurant and hate the wallpaper. You can try to persuade the owner to change it. If he doesn't, you can decide not to go back. But if you break in and cover the wallpaper yourself, you will be charged with criminal wrongdoing.

But the state is different. If it doesn't like the wallpaper, it can mandate a change. If you refuse, you are guilty of criminal wrongdoing.

The state essentially redefines criminal wrongdoing exempting itself from the law that governs everyone else.

It is the same with every single word of the federal code. It all represents coercion. The state even created the Fed and forcibly limits competition in money and banking, preventing people from making gold and silver money which in some ways is the most dreadful intervention of all, because it allows the state to destroy our money on a whim.

The state is everybody's enemy. Why don't the protesters get this? Because they are victims of propaganda doled out in public schools, that attempts to blame all human suffering on private parties and free enterprise. The real enemy is the institution that brainwashes them.

They are right that society is rife with conflicts, and that the contest is wildly lopsided. It is indeed the 99 percent versus the 1 percent. They're just wrong about the identity of the enemy.

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